

Dungeness Watershed Action Plan Notes, May 9, 2011

Participants: Mike Anderson, Bob Metzger, Dean Yoshina, John Woolley, Kathleen Dowd-Gailey, Rebecca Wolfe, Scott Chitwood, Scott Hagerty, Susan Piper, Tim McNulty, Judith Morris, Richard Coulson

Dean provided a brief overview of project. The goal is to identify watershed restoration opportunities in the Dungeness, with community participation. The Forest Service is still in the formative stages of this process, but wants to complete the watershed action plan by the end of September 2011. Dean is very appreciative of everyone's participation and wants to know how our various groups would like to be involved in the process of identifying the restoration projects. Do people want to help determine the initial project/s? Or would they prefer to respond after the Forest Service has developed an initial project list?

Susan (team leader) said that the Forest Service interdisciplinary team (e.g. Susan, Matt, Dean, Bob) met last week to assemble and discuss the large amount of existing data and planning information about the Dungeness. She went over the goals and objectives for the project.

The newcomers to the discussion (Judith, Richard, and Tim) gave some brief initial feedback. Judith said she appreciated being included and was just listening today. Richard said the off-road vehicle community is concerned about loss of access to public land. Tim said he thought the goals and objectives were excellent.

Susan gave some more details about the planning process and outcomes. They have assembled a very interdisciplinary team that includes experts on soil, fisheries, wildlife, roads, climate change, etc. The Dungeness has a long history of positive engagement by the Dungeness River Management Team and others – e.g. the Forest Service access and travel management plan. Some of the potential restoration tools include road decommissioning, road stabilization, in-stream improvement, vegetative enhancement, native revegetation, pre-commercial thinning, weed control, and trail improvements. The ID Team is funded to work on the action plan through September. They will be prioritizing projects on national forest lands but will also look at projects elsewhere in the watershed.

Dean said he would like to continue having these conference calls to update the group on the ID team's work and discuss potential projects. The ID team has good information on road and trail conditions, but has less information about how they are being used. Susie Graham is the team's recreation specialist. Road-to-trail conversion opportunities will be considered. Rebecca thought that Sierra Club could offer to help with education and outreach about the action plan. Tim said the Olympic Park Associates could probably suggest some areas in need of restoration.

The Forest Service is aiming to hold a public meeting in late June, after a considerable amount of field work has been completed. That will likely be followed by a field trip in July, perhaps in conjunction with the DRMT. Mike suggested including a stop to look at the City's municipal water supply system and discuss potential impacts of climate change on the upper watershed and future water supply. Scott said that the DRMT's monthly meetings are open to the public and agendas are posted on their website; the next meeting is May 11. The Instream Flow Rule process may be of interest to this group.

Judith and Mike suggested making information about the action planning available on the internet. The Olympic National Forest has a new website that could be used; the DRMT website

is another possibility. Susan said she would check with the ONF website manager. She will also send around a list of all the ID team members.

Mike suggested that several groups could help publicize the June public meeting and other information about the action plan. Donna Nemeth will be in charge of publicity for the Forest Service.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 31, at 11:00 AM. Agenda will include selecting a date for the June public meeting, along with time, place, agenda, participants, etc. People should send Mike names and emails of others who might be interested in joining the next call.